

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 8, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 as not being enabled under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the modifications for enabling an indicator light to operate as an optical receiver were alluded to on page 48, but were not disclosed. Applicant cites the specification sections below that disclose an exemplary modification that enables an indicator light to operate as an optical receiver. The independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to remove the requirement that the indicator lights being used as an optical transmitter and an optical receiver are necessarily in different groups of indicator lights. The amendments to the dependent claims comport with the amended language added to claims 1 and 12. Thus, the amendments presented above and the remarks set forth below address the Examiner's ground of rejection and Applicant requests that all pending claims be allowed.

ENABLING DISCLOSURE

In the Office Action of December 8, 2005, the Examiner referenced the following statement from Applicant's specification, "[O]ne of the indicator lights 36a to 36i may be operated as an optical receiver by modifying the circuitry associated with the indicator light" and stated that the modification was not disclosed. The next sentence, however, states that "[t]o simplify the description of *this* implementation, indicator light 36j is shown configured for operation as an optical receiver in FIG. 9A" (emphasis added). The specification at page 46, line 18 to page 47, line 12 describes an exemplary configuration of an indicator light that operates as an indicator light. Indicator light 36j comports with

that configuration so an artisan would understand that indicator light 36j may be operated as an indicator light. This configuration has been modified so the indicator light 36j may also be operated as an optical receiver and this modification is described in the specification at page 47, lines 3-22. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how to configure an indicator light to operate as an indicator light and as an optical receiver.

The exemplary configuration shown in FIG. 9A depicts one indicator light configured to operate as an optical transmitter (36i) and another indicator light configured to operate as an optical receiver (36j). These indicator lights are contained in the same group of indicator lights coupled to a common control element, which is transistor Q2. Consequently, when indicator 36j is operated as an optical receiver then indicator 36i is not operating as an optical transmitter. Likewise, when indicator 36i is operated as an optical transmitter then indicator 36j is not operating as an optical receiver.

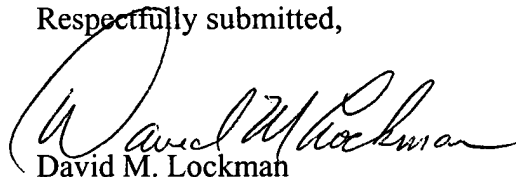
Another exemplary embodiment described in the specification is one in which the indicator light operated as an indicator and an optical transmitter is located in one group of indicator lights and another indicator light operated as an indicator and an optical receiver is located in another group of indicator lights (Specification, page 49, lines 5-22). To implement this embodiment, one of ordinary skill would understand that any indicator in one group of indicators may be operated as an optical transmitter as described with reference to indicator 36i. That is, indicator 36d, for example, may be operated as an optical transmitter or an indicator light by selectively controlling A4 and Q1. Likewise, by controlling Q2 and A5, as described in the specification, indicator 36j would operate as an optical receiver or an indicator light. Thus, operation of one

indicator, whether 36d or 36i, as an optical transmitter and operation of indicator 36j as an optical receiver in either case is enabled by the specification, shown in FIG. 9A, and covered by claims 1 and 12. Likewise, all other combinations of optical transmitters and receivers with the requisite modifications for configuring an indicator as an optical receiver would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from the specification.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant's specification enables one in the art to modify an indicator light operating as indicator light so it may also operate as an optical receiver. For at least these reasons, pending claims 1-19 are patentable over the references of record. Reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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